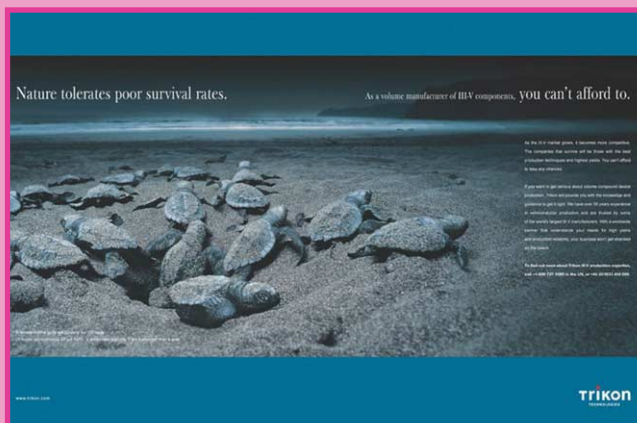


Aviza takes Trikon for focus

Thermal process and atomic layer deposition systems supplier, Aviza Technology Inc has entered into a definitive agreement with Trikon Technologies Inc to consolidate through merger, approved by Aviza's stockholders and subject to approval by Trikon's stockholders. Under the terms of the agreement, Aviza and Trikon will consolidate under a new holding company, to be named Aviza Technology Inc. Former Aviza stockholders will own approximately 60% of the new company and former Trikon shareholders will own approximately 40%, with VantagePoint Venture Partners, Aviza's largest stockholder, owning approximately 50% of the new company.

Jerry Cutini, president and CEO of Aviza, and Patrick O'Connor, executive VP and CFO of Aviza, will continue in those positions at the newly formed company. Dr. John Macneil, Trikon's CEO, will become executive VP and CTO of the newly formed company. The board of directors will be comprised of seven members, three each from Aviza and Trikon and a new outside director to be named. The chairman of the board will be Robert Anderson, who currently serves on Trikon's board of directors.

Aviza and Trikon had combined annual revenues of approximately \$160m in CY2004. The new company will have approximately 700 employees and an installed base of more than 3,000 systems worldwide.



Trikon's survival-run to Aviza

Two days after the merger announcement, Trikon reported business strategy will focus on four segments in semiconductor and nanotechnology fabrication: mainstream silicon and power management applications; memory applications, including new non-volatile approaches such as MRAM; communications, covering III-V based high speed electronics, Bulk Acoustic Wave device manufacture and emerging technologies in the fields of MEMS and wafer level packaging techniques.

Dr. John Macneil, president and CEO of Trikon said "The advantage is that this strategy gives us significant market opportunities to leverage our production leadership and it should help to balance the effects of

the industry's cyclical markets. For example, even with the industry currently in a down cycle, we are seeing significant market opportunities for power management applications and the ramp in BAW device production is also realising a lot of activity. In addition, our flowable oxide technology for sub 65nm memory manufacturing is being evaluated by several fabs looking for leading-edge solutions that they will need for the next technology node."

Aixtron acquires Genus

Aixtron AG has completed the merger with Genus Inc after the shareholders of Genus approved the merger with a majority of approximately 61% of the shares entitled to vote at the meeting.

Aixtron American Depositary Shares (ADS), to be issued in the merger to former Genus shareholders, commenced trading on Nasdaq on March 11, 2005. Each Aixtron ADS represents one Aixtron ordinary share. The Aixtron ordinary shares underlying the ADS are also expected to be admitted for trading on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange following the registration of a share capital increase of Aixtron.

Paul Hyland, Aixtron's CEO, said: "We are delighted that the Genus shareholders voted in favour of the transaction. By combining the two companies, we are creating one of the world's premier suppliers of advanced deposition technologies for the semiconductor industry. This transaction enables us to leverage the two companies' complementary strengths and gain the critical mass required to successfully compete in both the compound semiconductor and the semiconductor equipment industry."

China turns to Japan for equipment

China's largest chip maker, Semiconductor Manufacturing International (SMIC), is considering buying manufacturing equipment from Japan amid uncertainty over a planned \$769m syndicated loan to be offered primarily by Citigroup to buy American-made machines from Applied Materials Inc, Novellus Systems Inc and KLA-Tencor Corp.

The US Export-Import Bank has not approved the loan to Shanghai-based SMIC to buy the chip-making equipment, largely as a result of efforts by lobbyists for the sole US and world-ranked No 2 DRAM memory chip maker, Micron Technology Inc. Micron Technology is arguing that the loan would boost China's industry putting Americans out of work.

SMIC has been in talks since the start of this year with Japanese equipment vendors, including Tokyo Electron Ltd, and a syndicate of Japanese banks which would fund the purchase with a loan comparable in size to the pending US loan.

Financing for the SMIC purchases in 2005 has already

been lined up and the US loan would have funded equipment purchases for 2006.

Currently around half of SMIC's chipmaking equipment comes from the US, about 35% from Japan and the rest from Europe. But in light of China's protests with Japan, everything's up in the air.